

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the receipt of the office action dated July 11, 2007, and completion of the personal interview of September 19, 2007. The Examiner's observations and suggestions are much appreciated and summarized herein.

Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S Patent Publication No. 2004/0030809 to Lozano et al. In view of the amendments and arguments set forth below, it is submitted that all pending claims are patentably distinct over the art of record.

By way of review, the subject application is directed to a system and method for a printer driver on a client machine to communicate with a network printer communicatively coupled to a print server. There are two basic systems by which drivers are downloaded and installed, via a network, on to a client machine. Once the system completes a driver download from a data storage of a document processing devices, which data storage is typically associated with a device controller. In more intelligent peripherals, such as copiers, printers, scanners or facsimile machines that employ an intelligent controller, the device typically connects directly with a network. When a driver is downloaded and installed from such a device, the client computer will typically assign a virtual port to the document processing device such that bi-directional data communication is enabled via this port.

A second alternative for driver download is in connection with a networked computer which shares a device connected to it. By way of example, a networked computer may have a printer connected to it via its parallel port or USB port, and that computer is configured to share the device with other computers on the network. When a driver of such a shared device is downloaded and installed in a remote computer, the driver is typically associated with a device, e.g., "servername" rather than with a virtual port, e.g., LPT5. While this association may be acceptable for completing a simple print operation via the newly installed driver, it does not have the advantage of bi-directional data communication that is associated with a virtual port.

The subject application teaches a system and method that addresses the concerns noted in the representative embodiment, above. The subject application teaches a system and method in which a computer network is searched for at least one printer accessible by the client machine via a connection through an associated server and at least one accessible printer is selected from such search. Identifier data associated with each selected printer is retrieved as well as a network

address corresponding to the at least one selected printer. The network address corresponding identifier data, and a network path corresponding to the at least one selected accessible printer is stored in an internal value table of the client machine. A port from the at least one selected accessible printer is mapped to a port on a printer driver on the client machine in accordance with the value table, wherein the printer driver of the client machine is able to pass through an actual port associated therewith for bidirectional data communication with the at least one selected accessible printer.

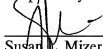
In contrast, Lozano is directed to a system for identifying and testing available printers. The system also includes teachings directed to download, installation or upgrading of printer drivers. However, Lozano fails to teach the port association as noted above, and as discussed during the personal interview. Amendment to each of independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 22 has been made to further clarify their distinctiveness over the art of record. As amended, each claim now includes limitations wherein identifier data is retrieved for each selected network printer. A network address and corresponding identifier data is stored on a table accessible to the client machine. This information is used to allow for association of a printer port to a downloaded device driver, thus alleviating the concerns noted in the embodiment illustrated above.

In accordance with the afore-noted amendments and comments, it is submitted that all claims are patentably distinct over the art, and in condition for allowance thereover. An early allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 66329/31252.

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Respectfully submitted,



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